

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin.

The Birth of Christ.

A COPY of VERSES, humbly presented to all my worthy MASTERS and MISTRESSES,  
Of Charing-Cross Ward, in the Parish of St. Martin in the Fields,

By FRANCIS CULEY, Beadle and Bellman, for the Year 1798.

No. 13, VILLIERS-STREET, YORK-BUILDINGS.

PROLOGUE.

LET learned Authors, fill'd with gen'rous Wine,  
In lofty Numbers make their Verbes shine;  
My Lines in humbler Strains shall gently flow,  
And not my Learning, but my Duty show:  
May they Acceptance find, I have my End,  
And where I've done amiss, I'll strive to mend.  
Then pray excuse your Beelman's Want of Skill,  
And kindly take the Product of his Quill.

(1815) ON ST. MICHAEL.

ST. Michael, at th' Almighty's dread Command,  
Did stop bold Satan's rude rebellious Hand;  
When in fierce War the Fiend attack'd his God,  
(Who could have fell'd him with a single Nod)  
Th' Arch-Angel threw him to that drear Abode,  
Reserv'd for those who dare oppose their God:  
There in eternal Chains he howling lies,  
Living in Flames that never, never dies.

ON ST. LUKE.

ST. Luke, thy Works do well thy Worth declare,  
You paint our Saviour with the utmost Care;  
We in your Gospel see his tragic Doom,  
You trace him from the Manger to the Tomb;  
And then, to show you practis'd as you thought,  
You tell a Victim to those Truths you taught.  
God grant we all like him may spend our Days,  
And live to celebrate our Maker's Praise.

ON ST. ANDREW.

PURSUÉ the Paths which good St. Andrew trod,  
Reflect on what he bore for Love of God.  
When in Religion's Cause his Faith was try'd,  
He murmur'd not, but bow'd his Head and dy'd:  
Bear then Affliction with a cheerful Mind,  
Look up to God, and always be resign'd.

ON ST. THOMAS.

LEARN we from others Faults to mend our own,  
And not, as Thomas did, our Lord disown;  
The true Messiah beyond a Doubt has prov'd,  
How much he suffer'd, and how much he lov'd;  
Let it be ours with equal Strength to shew,  
How much the true Messiah we love too.

(1819) ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

A WAKE, my pretty Maids, and quickly rise,  
No longer let dull Sleep oppress your Eyes;  
Christmas your speedy Labour now requires,  
To make your Pies and Tarts, and light your Fires;  
And then your House in decent Order place,  
That all Things may look with a comely Grace;  
When this you have done, neatly yourself attire,  
And you'll have Sweethearts more than you desire.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

HAIL to the Day, when Man, as 'twas decreed,  
Should from the Chains and Bands of sin be freed;  
When Christ did on him human Nature take,  
And all for lost mankind's sake;  
O! let this wondrous Act our Pity move,  
And by a well-spent Life requite his Love.  
Be merry then and wife—let none prophane  
Their Saviour's Birth, or take his Name in vain.

ON ST. STEPHEN.

CHRISTIANS, reflect on what this good Man bore,  
And his intrepid Faith you must adore;  
When doom'd to die a Martyr for his Zeal,  
He did not seem the least Concern to feel;  
The Cause of God was what he valu'd most,  
This was his greatest Glory, this his Boast.—  
Expiring, then to God he made his Moans,  
And bless'd his Murderers in his dying Groans.

ON ST. JOHN.

THIS Day the Christian Church, with one Accord,  
Commemorates the Darling of their Lord,  
St. John, to whom such mighty Signs were giv'n,  
As plainly spoke his Favourite of Heav'n:  
Who for him calm'd the boiling Caudron's Rage,  
And the more cruel Heathens Wrath assuage.  
He liv'd to see the Jewish Nation cease,  
And, highly favour'd, did depart in Peace.

ON INNOCENTS DAY.

HEROD was told a King o'er the Jews was born,  
At which he smil'd, but bore an inward Scorn.  
Seek him, unto the Indian Chiefs he said,  
That he may be ador'd and worshipp'd:  
Tho' for to slay the Child was his Intent,  
Which cost the Life of many an Innocent;  
Torn from their Mothers' Arms throughout the Land,  
Nor Tears nor Pray'rs could stop the Tyrant's Hand.

(1826) ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

ONCE more the Sun its Orbit has describ'd,  
Remember then what oft has been prescrib'd,  
To use the present Moment whilst you can,  
For all Men know that Life is but a span;  
In vain we trust to Time as yet unknown,  
The present only can we call our own.

ON TWELFTH DAY.

WHAT great Variety this Day affords, [Lords;  
When Maids are Queens, and meaneest Servants  
On Fortune's Smiles their Statelines depends,  
And with the Night their Pomp and Glory ends;  
For the next Day, John must reign his Pow'r,  
And Bet, as usual, must the Kitchen scow'r.

ON THE KING.

TO Royal George, my Muse, thy Numbers raise,  
And make my Verse immortal as his Praise:  
May he confound the Schemes of all his Foes,  
'Till victory shall bring us calm Repose:  
Prosperity attend his Fleets and Arms,  
And Guardian Angels keep him from all Harms.  
With one Accord, let all his Subjects sing,  
Success to George, and may long live the King.

ON THE QUEEN.

WHEN the God Neptune brought thee to this Shore,  
Old Thamus our Joy re-echo'd o'er and o'er;  
Each Heart elate, receiv'd the welcome Guest,  
Knowing full well the Worth that you posselt;  
For Fame, long ere this life your Person grac'd,  
Blew his thrill Trumpet—and each Virtue plac'd  
So conspicuous to the Britons' View,  
They stood convinc'd, the Goddess dwelt in you.

ON ADMIRAL DUNCAN'S VICTORY.

TO Duncan, let my Verse with Rapture flow;  
Hail, vet'ran Chief! thy gallant Actions show,  
That Britain, tho' assail'd on ev'ry Side,  
Still rides triumphant o'er the briny Tide.  
Batavia's Sons, in an ill-fated Hour,  
With Rancour sav, and try'd to check thy Pow'r;  
But vain Essay—for soon their vanquish'd Host,  
With Terror wild, fled to their native Coast.

(1815) TO MY MASTERS.

ACCEPT, my worthy Masters, this Address,  
By which I mean my Gratitude to express;  
A Sense of which I ever shall retain,  
And hope to show your Favors are not vain;  
Believe me true, for no one will you find  
More careful, or to serve you more inclin'd.

(1815) TO MY MISTRESSES.

BUT since I mean to give to all their Due,  
An equal Tribute does belong to you,  
My worthy Mistresses—accept the same,  
To please my Friends is all at which I aim;  
And that your wonted Goodness long may last,  
Accept my hearty Thanks for what is past.

(1810) ON THE BRITISH YOUTH.

WITH manly Strength endow'd, and manly Minds,  
The British Youth their Country's Glory find;  
Worthy the Female Beauty of the Land,  
Above other Nations first in Fame they stand:  
With Hearts undaunted, they the Battle urge,  
Firm Friends of Virtue, to foul Vice a Scourge!  
Like the tall Cedars gracing Judah's Land,  
They rise sublime, a great, a glorious Band!

(1824) ON THE BRITISH FAIR.

HAIL, Britain's Beauty! Hail to Britain's Fair!  
For form'd in Nature's choicest Mould you are!  
O! in your Form celestial Graces shine!  
Morals, yet moving with an Air divine!  
An Heav'n's conferr'd whence'er you sweetly smile,  
And all our bitt' rest, heart-felt Cares beguile.  
Your Minds are lovely as your lovely Frames;  
Chaste, wife, unequal'd, are the British Dames.

(1818) ON CRISPIN.

YE gentle Craft, throw by your Lads To-day,  
Let ev'ry Heart be jovial, blythe and gay;  
This Day great Honor to all Craftsmen brings,  
This Day ally'd them to the Blood of Kings.  
Let every Brother of the gentle Craft,  
From Stall and Garret make a gen'ral Draught;  
Then fill the Bowl, send round the sparkling Glas,  
Drink Crispin's Mem'ry, and your lovely Lads.

EPILOGUE.

BY Nature form'd a Bellman—not a Poet,  
(The Lines above will amply serve to shew it)  
I humbly hope that much is not expected,  
Much by a Bellman cannot be effected.  
Let Critics sneer—'tis not their Praise I court;  
'Tis yours, kind Sirs,—I want no better Sport.  
Deign then to smile at this my plain Address,  
By smiles I mean—what you may plainly guess.



The Wife Men's Offering.



Joseph's Flight into Egypt.



Christ baptized by John the Baptist.



Christ's Entrance into Jerusalem.



Stephen stoned.



The Ascension.



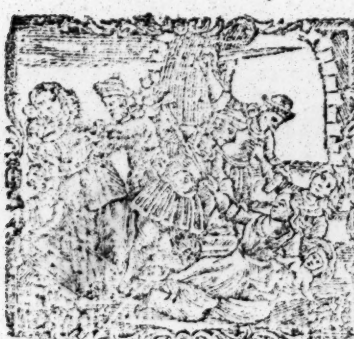
The Shepherds worship Christ.



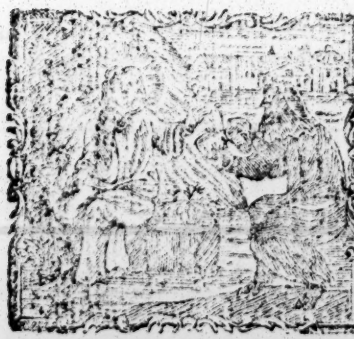
The Circumcision.



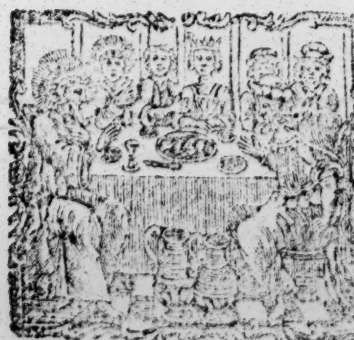
Herod's Cruelty.



Christ tempted by Satan in the Wilderness.



The Marriage in Cana.



The Lord's Supper.

Judas betrays Christ.

Peter denies Christ.

Christ's Crucifixion.

The Resurrection

The Ascension.

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